

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to provide antecedent basis for the term "the conduit". The applicant agrees and amended claim 12 accordingly.

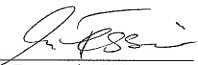
35 USC § 102

Claims 7-10 and 12-14 were previously rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Southgate et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,863,502). As claim 7 was amended to conform to allowable claim 11, and as claims 15-20 also include subject matter of allowable claim 11, the above rejection should be moot.

The applicant believes that the present claim amendments are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's concerns and believes that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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